



HJ0010

LRB096 07418 JDS 17504 r

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 1 of the Illinois Constitution states, "The public policy of the State and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations"; and

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WHEREAS, A capital construction program is urgently needed and would fix aging infrastructure in Illinois, create jobs for working men and women, and stimulate the economy; and

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WHEREAS, Previous capital construction proposals have called for as much as \$34 billion in spending; and

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WHEREAS, The potentially massive public expenditure involved in a capital plan represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize and improve the basic infrastructure of our State; and

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WHEREAS, The 21st century has already witnessed the development of technologies that promise to improve significantly the energy efficiency of buildings; to limit the environmental impact of new roads, bridges, and structures; to bring information technology resources to underserved areas; and to conserve and manage water resources; and

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1           WHEREAS, Previous capital proposals have allocated vast  
2 financial resources to projects unguided by the principles of  
3 environmental protection, energy efficiency, and  
4 sustainability; and

5           WHEREAS, Numerous scientific studies have concluded that  
6 the health of our people can be directly affected by the  
7 products used in our buildings and that utilizing alternative  
8 green products can greatly reduce the risk of health problems  
9 caused by, among other things, volatile organic compounds; and

10           WHEREAS, Green and sustainable principles and practices  
11 promote environmental health and offer significant energy  
12 savings; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
15 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the General Assembly, together  
16 with the Governor, ought to make passage of a green and  
17 sustainable comprehensive capital construction plan a top  
18 priority; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That the principles of environmental health,  
20 environmental protection, energy efficiency, and  
21 sustainability ought to guide the allocation of all funds in  
22 any capital construction plan; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That in providing funding for the construction of  
2 new buildings or the renovation of existing buildings, the law  
3 should require builders to adhere to sustainable building  
4 standards including the U.S. Green Building Council's  
5 Leadership in Environment and Energy Design (LEED) standards or  
6 substantially equivalent standards; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That in determining the allocation of  
8 transportation funding, the State should give due  
9 consideration to new public transportation, including rail, in  
10 the interest of planning sustainable transportation  
11 infrastructure for a more densely-populated society; and be it  
12 further

13           RESOLVED, That in providing for the construction and  
14 improvement of roads, the State should prioritize the laying of  
15 fiber-optic lines, particularly to rural areas and other  
16 regions of the State historically lacking in technological  
17 infrastructure; and be it further

18           RESOLVED, That the State should consider and prioritize  
19 each project in light of its potential to create jobs, its  
20 environmental impact, and its long-term energy savings.